

1. In a rear view mirror assembly comprising a mirror head for mounting a mirror and attachable to the end portion of a vehicle support bracket, said mirror head having an interior surface defining an interior chamber and a periphery shaped to receive said mirror, and clamping means for clamping said mirror head tightly yet turnably to said end portion, the improvement wherein said clamping means comprises:

socket means interiorly of said interior chamber and defining a socket for receiving said end portion, said socket means comprising:

an endwall facing inwardly of said interior chamber, said endwall having an opening communicating with said socket,

a clamping plate, said endwall and said clamping plate being configured to form a socket for captivating said end portion and constraining said mirror head to turn about an axis through said socket, and

tightening means, at least in part disposed exteriorly of said interior chamber, for forcing said clamping plate and said endwall towards one another and against the end portion when said end portion is disposed in said socket whereby to prevent the mirror head turning relative to the end portion.

2. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 1, wherein said clamping plate comprises a resiliently rigid material.

3. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 2, wherein said

1054650-101901
TOP OF PAGE

tightening means comprises:

a first and a second aperture being provided, respectively, in said clamping plate and said endwall, and

a fastener having a head portion adapted to engage the exterior surface of said mirror head and a threaded portion sized to pass through the apertures and into said interior passage and threadably engage the wall forming said first aperture,

and wherein threadable engagement draws the clamping plate towards the endwall into tight engagement with the end portion therebetween.

4. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 3, wherein said tightening means comprises:

positioning means disposed interiorly of said mounting head for positioning said clamping plate relative to said endwall, said positioning means including internally bored first and second bosses, respectively, on said clamping plate and said endwall,

a threaded fastener having a head member to engage the clamping plate and a threaded portion sized to pass through the bore in said clamping plate and threadably engage a wall forming the bore in said endwall, and

wherein threadable engagement drives the clamping plate towards the endwall and into engagement with the end portion therebetween.

5. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

said socket means comprises said clamping plate and said endwall each including a first sleeve portion and a second sleeve portion,

said first sleeve portion and said second sleeve portion cooperating to combine and form axially spaced first and second sleeves sized to receive the end portion of said vehicle support bracket and define a longitudinal axis about which the mirror head rotates when the end portion is disposed in said sleeves.

6. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

said end portion comprises a ball fixedly connected thereto, and

said socket means comprises said clamping plate and said endwall each including a ball seat portion, said seat portions cooperating to combine and form a ball socket for receiving a ball and within which said ball can swivel and rotate thereby to change the angular position of said mirror head relative to said end portion.

7. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 6, wherein:

said end portion includes an axial stem connected to said ball, and

said endwall includes an opening sized to receive an end portion of said stem,

said mirror head being able to rotate relative to the ball when said ball is captivated in said socket.

10054650-101901

8. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 7, wherein said socket means comprises:

a plurality of ribs extending upwardly from said endwall and to respective arcuate end surfaces which cooperate to form a spherical cradle.

9. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 8, wherein the ribs are generally parallel to one another.

10. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 8, wherein said upstanding ribs extend proximate the opening in said endwall.

11. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 5, wherein said first and second sleeve portions on said endwall comprise a plurality of ribs, said ribs extending upwardly from said endwall and to respective arcuate end surfaces to form a cradle for said end portion.

12. The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 11, wherein said ribs are generally parallel to one another and disposed longitudinally of said arcuate end surfaces in longitudinally aligned relation, and

said mirror head has an opening provided at a location spaced from said socket means, said opening being generally longitudinally aligned with said first and second sleeve portions.

13. A mirror head for securement to a vehicle support bracket, said mirror head comprising:

a head wall formed as an integrally molded plastic piece and having an interior surface defining an interior chamber and a periphery shaped to receive a mirror,

mounting means for clamping said mirror head tightly yet turnably to an end portion of said support bracket, said mounting means comprising:

socket means interiorly of said interior chamber and defining a socket for receiving said end portion, said socket means comprising:

an endwall facing inwardly of said interior chamber, said endwall having an opening communicating with said socket,

a clamping plate, said endwall and said clamping plate being configured to form a socket for captivating said end portion and constraining said mirror head to turn about an axis through said socket, and

tightening means, disposed at least in part exteriorly of said interior chamber, for forcing said clamping plate and said endwall towards one another and against the end portion when said end portion is disposed in said socket to thereby prevent the mirror head turning relative to the end portion.

14. The mirror head as recited in Claim 13, further comprising:

connecting means for removably mounting said mirror to the mirror head, said connecting means comprising a plurality of engagement openings being formed in the outer periphery remote to said endwall for receiving locking

fingers extending from said mirror, said connection substantially sealing the interior chamber of said mirror head.

15. A dual mounting member for mounting a mirror head to a mirror shaft, comprising:

a clamping plate having a central substantially semi-spherical portion, a pair of opposed sleeve portions extending outwardly from the hemispherical portion,

a ribbed endwall mating with the clamping plate and having a plurality of spaced apart discontinuous ribs, the discontinuity forming a hemispherical portion complimentary to the hemispherical portion of the clamping plate, the endwall having a pair of opposed sleeve portions extending from the hemispherical portion, and

wherein when the clamping plate and endwall are mated the hemispherical portions cooperate to define a ball receiving socket and the sleeves and the socket cooperate to define a shaft receiving passageway.